



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Cairo's public threat to close the Suez Canal to any nation forcibly attempting to break the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba reflects Nasir's determination not to back down on the blockade issue. Foreign Minister Riad told Ambassador Yost yesterday that Nasir's position in the Arab world would be destroyed should he yield, and that Egypt had no alternative but to fight "anyone" who tries to force a passage.

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Yesterday's clash between a group of Syrians and an Israeli patrol was the most serious incident in several weeks. Neither side, however, appears bent on letting it lead to a general engagement.

Damascus is showing some unhappiness over the Egyptian-Jordanian defense pact, and is censoring Egyptian news releases concerning it.

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As for General Dayan as defense minister, Ambassador Barbour believes his standing with the Israeli people and army may actually help Eshkol maintain a moderate policy for longer than would otherwise be possible.

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2. Communist China

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Communist-led labor unions are said to be preparing for a "violent conflict" with the government--probably an attempt at a prolonged strike to begin today or tomorrow. We doubt the Communists can carry this off; their planning may be intended to boost morale, shaken by the government's firm but unprovocative stance. Whether or not the strike comes off, the British believe the local Communists are settling in for a long-term confrontation.

Peking is continuing its attacks on the British, but at a greatly reduced level.

4. Venezuela

President Leoni is getting impatient over Venezuela's inability to get hemisphere support for its denunciation of Cuban intervention. Many in his government feel Venezuela is out on a limb and is beginning to appear ridiculous in the world press. Their frustration is leading to increasing criticism of the US.

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5. Bolivia

This week for the first time an army unit trained and equipped by the US Military Assistance Program tried its hand against the guerrillas in southeastern Bolivia. The encounter was at best a standoff--and has triggered a major review of the government's counterinsurgency effort.

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6. Nigeria

Gowon has so far responded to the East's secession with ineffectual decrees. In the East, Ojukwu seems relaxed and confident, and has appointed a foreign minister even though nobody has yet recognized his "Republic of Biafra."

7. Uganda

The Soviet aid program is producing a lot of snickers since word has gotten around that "nine dull brown mechanical monsters" now enroute across Kenya are snow plows from the Ukraine.

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